

Transportation

Fenced-In

When the new Oxnard-Santa Monica highway, bordering the ocean, was constructed, the landowners along the coast may or may not have been jubilant. Increased was the value of their property, but subject also was their property to the vandalism of the motoring public.

"Keep Out" signs were posted along the new scenic highway, warning trespassers that the beach on one side, the hills on the other, were private property. No attention was paid these placards; trespassers used fence posts, small trees, bushes for firewood; picnicked on the beach, left papers, tin cans, rubbish; one hunter killed a buck in the neighboring hills.

Property owners along the highway have been much annoyed, have resorted to fencing in their beaches, their hills. Already has Malibu Rancho Owner Mrs. Katherine Rindge protected her 22 miles of shoreline, fenced it in, posted armed deputies. The 35 miles of ocean front between the Rindge land and Santa Monica are privately controlled, closed to the public.

Last week Manager Lester C. Reed of the Thornhill Broome Guadaluca Rancho began the fencing in of the last eight miles of shoreline, with intention to prevent the public from reaching either the hills or the beach. No more vandalism would they tolerate.

Courteous Cops

Hearing that some of California's highway-patrolling motor cops were tough, hard-boiled, impolite to luckless law-breakers, Chief Frank G. Snook and Superintendent Eugene Biscailuz of the new State Highway Patrol have changed the outlook of all officers under their jurisdiction. If an officer was once domineering, looking for trouble, now he is gentle and doing his best to prevent arguments, mental turmoil.

At a combined meeting of the Lions, Rotary and Exchange clubs in Los Angeles, Biscailuz declared: "A traffic tag with a smile will be the policy throughout California." Later Biscailuz said: "Efficiency of traffic officers will not be measured in future by the number of arrests they make, but by the number of accidents they prevent in their districts. We intend to make the public feel that the State highway patrol is giving a service, not exacting a penalty."

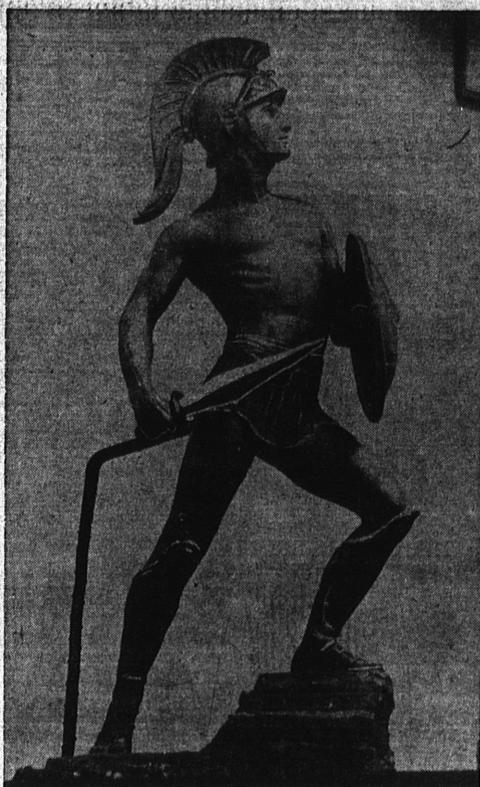
Mr. Biscailuz held a conference on the matter with Governor Young. To Young he outlined the new policies of the new patrol. The Governor was in perfect accord. To Biscailuz, the Governor cited an instance where a patrolman had assisted a woman to change a tire on the highway.

Frank G. Snook thought someone would soon be urging economy. "But," said he, "to render service required under law it will be necessary to expand the payroll has jumped \$1,250,000 since the State took over all county traffic officers."

Both Biscailuz and Snook thought salaries among the officers should be standardized so that everyone would receive the same pay, regardless of which county they were employed in. Formerly, some counties paid salaries as high as \$500 per month while others paid as low as \$150.

"Scenic or Sign-ic"

Billboards, gaudy, brilliant, glaring, have long been a bone of contention to California motorists. Practically no highway, byway remains immune; scores of rainbow-hued signboards obstruct the land-



CENTER OF ART CONTROVERSY
Did Sculptor Burnham pinch Student Trentini's idea?

scapes, deprive nature of its glory, leave departing tourists with a memory of garish roadside signs. Many civic organizations have so believed; have petitioned, pleaded, entreated that signboards be prohibited along certain designated highways, that certain scenic routes be left unobstructed by ardent advertisers. To the government of the State they directed their plans; they were hearkened to, the co-operation of communities was asked.

Altruistic is the most recent gesture to effect the removal of the signboards. It is being made by the Standard Oil Company of California. Several years ago, this company abandoned highway advertising itself, destroying some 1200 signs.

Standard Oil Company's executives believed that no action of consequence could be taken to lessen the "signboard evil" until public opinion was first crystallized. So last fortnight they opened a contest for letters, slogans, pictures, indicative of scenic disfigurement. This material they will use as propaganda. Contest slogan: "Scenic or Sign-ic."

Prizes of \$1000, \$500, \$250, will be given to the three best 1500-word or less letters telling how the erection of signs can be prevented, how the present signs can be removed.

From \$125 to \$500 range the three prizes for the best letters of 500-words or less telling why signboards should be eliminated.

Three suggested slogans of eight words or less will bring their originators \$250, \$125, \$75, while the best five photographs indicating the defacement of natural beauties by advertising signs will receive \$200, \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25.

Art

"Spirit of Troy"

Many are the ideals of the University of Southern California. Strong is the spirit of the institution. Eager are its students, alumni, faculty, to express these ideals, this spirit.

Best epitomizing these ideals, this spirit would be a heroic statue of a Trojan; for not only is the Trojan tradition emblematic of the University of Southern California, but it also embodies courage, skill, wisdom. So reasoned alumni, students. They authorized Sculptor-Teacher Royer Noble Burnham to design a statue typi-

fying the "Spirit of Troy"; symbolic of student spirit, student life.

Sculptor Burnham's preliminary model was approved. While he prepared to make the actual size clay figure, to be cast in bronze, alumni pictured with pride the unveiling of the gigantic statue at the Semi-Centennial celebration of June, 1930; visualized at the statues base athletic rallies, reunions, academic gatherings in years to come.

But unrealized may be these dreams. Last week Art Student Germain Trentini filed suit in Superior Court to enjoin Sculptor Burnham from completing his statue. Declared Trentini: The approved model is not Burnham's; it is copied from a statue he (Trentini) had designed last January while he was studying art under Teacher Burnham. Demanded Trentini: \$5,000 damages, discontinuance of work on the statue.

Religion

Fashionable Ministers

Last week 400 Methodist Episcopal ministers and 500 laymen of Southern California and Arizona convened at Long Beach's Grace Methodist Episcopal Church for their 54th annual conference. (See News Review Sept. 23-29).

Prime among the convention events of vital interest to the clergymen was the announcement of parish appointments for the year. In this connection, delegates scored the custom of importing "fashionable ministers from eastern churches" to fill wealthy Southern California pulpits. This practice, the ministers claimed, deprived them of opportunities for advancement in the fields which they had helped develop. Therefore, after much discussion between laymen and ministers, the conference adopted a resolution deploring this practice, made provisions that "fashionable ministers" be considered only when Southern California ministers were not available, and then only when approved by a majority of the conference governing board.

The practice of radio broadcasting of sermons, church services, other events, was discussed at the convention's session on Friday. Routine events: Welcoming addresses; devotional services; memorial services; district reports on progress made during the year; business sessions; cabinet discussions of appointments.

Science

Paget's Disease

Strange and uncanny even to doctors, many are the diseases of mankind not understood by medical scientists. No cure is known for the dread cancer growth. Pelagra, a languishing illness which slowly eats away vitality is also a mysterious malady yet unsolved. Leprosy, making rotten the flesh of its victims is also a fearsome disease because cure is seldom. But no more strange and weird are these diseases than Paget's disease, an affliction which slowly dissolves the body's bone structure. Scientists know little about it because only six cases have even been brought to their attention. A germ is thought to be the prime cause.

Scarce as Paget's disease is, there is at least one case in Southern California. In the last eight years, one Joseph Mayott, 54, Spanish American War veteran, has found himself growing shorter. In nine years he shrank nine inches. Nine years ago Mayott measured five feet seven inches in height. Now he measures but four feet ten.

First indications of his affliction came when he had to hitch up his trousers more often than usual. Then he had to shorten them. A year later he shortened them again. Finally he realized he was growing shorter so he went to a doctor at the Sawtelle Soldiers Home. Since then 400 doctors have examined Mayott. They are agreed that his disease need not become fatal—that he might well live fifty years more. He says in this assertion: "If I do live fifty years, and continue to shrink at the present rate, I'll be able to hide behind a shoebox at the end of that time."

Lunar Research

Throughout the centuries scientists have surveyed the moon through telescopes, declared it to be composed of this, of that, denied the famous "green cheese" theory, disproved the "man in the moon" hypothesis. Their aim has been to divest the moon of its mystery. For years they have been compiling data concerning the material composition, temperature, other properties of the earth's satellite.

Head of a scientific committee on lunar research is Carnegie Institute Geologist Dr. Frederick E. Wright, now staying at Pasadena's Hotel Constance, this month observing the moon from the Mt. Wilson Observatory.

Scientist Wright is most interested in determining the moon's composition. This he has been doing by comparing the effects of the direct rays of the sun on the earth's surface with the indirect lunar rays, using photographs and maps.

Said Carnegie Expert Wright: If a man were able to fly to the moon he could not live an instant since there is no atmosphere of any

kind. Nor would the moon's temperature, ranging from 200 degrees centigrade (100 degrees above boiling point) to 200 degrees below zero, permit any form of life.

Dr. Whight's assistants include: Dr. John P. Bualwala, Dr. Paul S. Epstein (California Institute of Technology); Director W. S. Adams, Dr. C. C. Pease, Dr. Edison Pettit (Mt. Wilson staff); Dr. Arthur L. Ray (Carnegie Geophysics Laboratory director).

Canyon Farewell

Geologically speaking, the phrase "old as the hills" has little meaning. Hills never attain old age, never approximate permanency. Resulting from wrinkling in the earth's crust, erosion soon levels them down, weathers them completely away.

Nor is the Grand Canyon of the Colorado deemed one of the world's wonders, a permanent chasm. Geologist William Morris Davis, Harvard emeritus professor, last month, while lecturing at the University of California at Los Angeles, declared that the Grand Canyon is the fifth wonder of its kind in that region of the South west; soon (geologically speaking) it will no longer exist, it will be succeeded by other gigantic clefts.

Only a few million years remain before the colossal abyss, now at the zenith of its glory, will have been completely effected. Its four predecessors were destroyed hundreds of centuries ago; hundreds of centuries hence today's Grand Canyon of the Colorado will be only a memory.

Built by the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is entirely the work of erosion (wearing away of rocks, as by water). Not much deeper can the river cut before it approaches sea level. That accomplished, erosion will wear away the plateaus bordering the chasm until they disappear for a hundred miles on either side of the river. Another plateau will then be thrown up by movement of the earth's crust; the "cycle of erosion" will commence once more.

Stated Dr. Davis: Such facts, startling as they seem to laymen, are general geological knowledge. Geology not the "science of imagination," but a cold, unadorned history as read from the rocks which comprise the earth's surface, inner crust.

Volcano Climbers

In the heart of Ecuador (South America), the Chimborazo volcano rears its peak 20,900 feet above sea level. Last month a party of scientists from the California Institute of Technology painstakingly toiled their way up the mountain's sides, following the same route used by Explorer Edward Whimper 50 years ago, attained the highest peak on August 28, after eight days of constant climbing.



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